



THE STRAVEN ROAD  
**VETERINARY  
CENTRE (LTD)**

**VETERINARY SURGEONS**

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**Newsletter – SPRING 2012 Issue 17**

**CLINIC NEWS**

Isn't it just awesome to see the daffodils out. It really lifts your spirits and makes it much easier to get the dog out for a walk too.

We are very happy to share with you that Tania (Head Veterinary Nurse) and Carlos will be getting married this spring and that another of our veterinary nurses, Barb has recently got engaged to her partner, Brad. We all wish Tania and Carlos and Barb and Brad all the best for their future lives together.

In this newsletter, we update our information on puppy preschool, share one of our vet's talents (other than being a great vet) and remind you of things to be aware of now its spring.

Don't forget to LIKE us on Facebook. We are still working towards 250 likes so we can give away the bag of Hills pet food.

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**PUPPY PRESCHOOL**  
**Puppy School at Straven Road Veterinary Centre.**

Attending Puppy classes with your new family member is an extremely important part of having a new canine friend. These classes not only help your puppy understand appropriate social interaction in a safe environment but also teach you all the latest in starting out on the right track to having a healthy, happy and well socialised new member of the family.

**The Classes**

These classes are run to help you get an insight into your puppy's mind and its behaviour. You will get some training tips and practise, as well as some veterinary advice from one of our own diploma trained veterinary nurses. Get well informed and get your puppy used to coming to the vet for a fun time.

Every class you will have a chance to learn valuable training ideas for your puppy and practise what you have learnt from the week before. It is also a

great chance for puppies to socialise with other pups at a similar age. This is very beneficial for puppies at this age so they learn how to interact together and for you to learn what some of their behaviour means, and it is all done within our controlled and safe environment.

We keep our numbers of pups per course limited so there is plenty of room and time for all puppies and owners.

**Added Bonus:**

We have some great deals in our puppy packs as well!

**Who runs the course:**

Jess Gray, one of our veterinary nurses, runs our Puppy School classes. She has a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing from Massey University.

**How long is the course:**

3 weeks (approx 1 – 1 ½ hours session each week)

**How do I book:**

Just call us at The Straven Road Veterinary Centre on (03) 3489 728 or our clinic at Animates Veterinary Centre Papanui on (03) 3525 749 and book in with us then.

**SPECIAL: WE ARE OFFERING \$20 DISCOUNT OFF OUR PUPPY SCHOOL UNTIL THE END OF 2012. BOOK IN NOW!**

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**WHAT VETS DO IN THEIR SPARE TIME?**  
**Pet Portraits**

Well, Dr Eve Allely does! She is one of our vets at The Straven Road Veterinary Centre and at our Animates Veterinary Centre at Papanui. She produces awesome pastel portraits of animals from photographs.

**Subject:** Animals. Her most common subjects to draw are dogs and cats, although Eve is open-minded. The most important thing for her is good reference photographs. She prefers a few photos from different angles, nice and close up so she can see detail, especially of the animals fur/ coat. Eve prefers one animal per portrait as with multiple animals in the same



**Caring Vets,  
Healthy Pets**

picture such detail becomes compromised.



See the website for these and colour and more examples.

**Size:** approx 50cm x 60cm on textured coloured paper. This size fits into a typical large photo frame, or of course you can take your pastel drawing and get it professionally framed. If you do have a different size in mind, just check with her.

**Price:** currently \$150 for a 50cm x 60cm pastel drawing.

**Time frame:** 1-2 months. Eve likes to have drawings

completed in a couple of months from time of order. This time can vary depending on how busy her veterinary work is! It is very rare that she will not complete a portrait within that time frame.

**How to order:** Email. Please email your details through to Eve at [doctorlala@hotmail.com](mailto:doctorlala@hotmail.com), with some photos. Let her know which photo you like the best, so she knows which angle she is drawing from and so your picture is what you are expecting. If you have any questions please email them through to Eve and she will email you back.

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## WHAT TO BE AWARE OF NOW IT'S SPRING

### Sun Dangers

If you have a pet that has white fur and or you can see pink skin through the fur, they are at risk in those areas of sunburn. If you already use animal based sunscreen for your pet, start using it again now. If you are unsure, contact us for advice on selecting the right sunscreen (human sunscreen is not appropriate) and where it needs to be applied. If any of your pets have any non healing skin lesions get these checked as soon as possible by us. These could be skin cancers.

### Over exercising your dog

If you haven't managed to get out and about as much as you should have over winter, but now with the arrival of spring you are keen and enthusiastic; like you, your dog will need working up to long walks and runs, to build up fitness. If you rush out and let you dog start madly chasing a ball for example injuries such as cruciate ligament tears will occur. Seek advice from us for recommendations about a suitable exercise programme.

### Weight gain over winter

Now is the time to weigh your dogs and cats. This can be done free of charge at either of our branches. Our veterinary nurses can compare their current weight with their weight the last time they were in, as well as assess their body condition and advise if any changes to diet are required to get the weight off. Once a pet gets over 15% overweight it becomes very difficult to reduce the weight using standard diets as you have to calorie restrict them so much that the other nutrient levels are compromised. Your pet also feels hungry all the time. Our qualified staff can help you get your pet back to an appropriate weight using an appropriate diet.

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## PROMOTIONS

Visit our promotions page on our website for current promotions: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/pet-product-promotions.php>

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**We would love to hear your feedback on our newsletter. We thank you for your custom and we look forward to seeing you again soon.**



**Caring Vets,  
Healthy Pets**